

Message Text

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40

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 TRSE-00 /060 W

----- 030521

R 211330Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2866

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USAFE RAMSTEIN

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0605

FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB GW

SUBJECT: PAY-BOOST FOR RUHR COAL MINERS

1. AFTER ONLY FOUR DAYS OF NEGOTIATING THE MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION AND THE EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE RUHR COAL MINING INDUSTRY CONCLUDED A WAGE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD WAGE AND SALARY INCREASE OF 5.25 PERCENT FOR THE 155,000 EMPLOYEES IN THE RUHR COAL MINING INDUSTRY, EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1976. IN ADDITION THE LONGEVITY BONUS WILL BE INCREASED FROM DM 312, - TO DM 468,-- PER YEAR. INCLUDING THE BONUS THE PAY INCREASE AMOUNTS TO A TOTAL OF 5.4 PERCENT. THE UNION AND ITS

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COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COMMITTEE HAVE UNANIMOUSLY

RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT. ORIGINALLY THE UNION HAD
DEMANDED 7.5 PERCENT.

2. SPEAKERS FOR THE INDUSTRY DECLARED THAT THE PAY
INCREASES WOULD NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT COAL PRICES. THE
LAST COAL PRICE INCREASE OCCURRED AT THE BEGINNING OF
1976.

3. COMMENT: THE SMOOTH BARGAINING ROUND IN COAL
MINING CAN LARGELY BE ASCRIBED TO CODETERMINATION
(MITBESTIMMUNG), WHICH IS PRACTICED WITH PARTICULAR
EFFECT IN THE COAL MINING INDUSTRY. THE 5.4 PERCENT
INCREASE HAS BECOME THE ACCEPTED NORM IN THIS YEAR'S
WAGE NEGOTIATIONS.DUX

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